EIGHT PAGES

PART V

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The Stage and Its People



Jecob Ben-Ami, in "Johannes Kreisler," opening Wednesday evening

The Theaters

Troubles of a Successful Playwright

By Percy Hammond

T IS said that the young playwright and his manuscript are the most forlorn of all the heart-breaking pictures in the theater. You have read of them as they haunt the producers' offices, determined to prevall, and of their despondency when they are turned away without being able to do so. Their bright hopes when parting from one another, and the miseries of their subsequent reunions; the futile endeavors with agents, managers and actors, the schemes devised to get a hearing—are all familiar. And so are their emotions of righteous envy as, frustrated, they see other authors and other plays achieving glory and prosperity with what, it seems to them, is a great deal of ease and a very little worthiness.

I was speaking of this the other day to Mr. John Golden, the producer, and Mr. Austin Strong, the author of "The Seventh Heaven," one of the season's most distinguished "successes." We were standing in the rear of the Booth Theater, watching the play's operations upon its enchanted audience, and I was moved to congratulate them on that leasing spectacle. "Fair winds, smooth waters and a contenting haven!" sald I to Mr. Strong, for I was talking to a poet, "You belong to the happy band of those who do well and do it with comfort. You get a stimulating idea and you develop it into a drama. You take the manu- Every Man in script to John Golden, a producer of high standing, who reads it at once and accepts it. He asks you what actors he shall engage to interpret your work and you tell him your selections. He hires them and puts them into rebersal. The play is presented at a leading N. Y. theater, and newspaper In it as may result from seeing me, as I watch this large and fascinated S and sudience, giving evidence of my demerits as a critic of your description.

Mr. Strong then informed me that "The Seventh Heaven" had its many cents to the noise-from the viewpoint vicissitudes, even as nearly all the successful plays have them. There was of an average Shakespeare enthusiast. much rough going before it reached the summer places. Again recalling Miss Bertha Broad as Juliet in Walter Mr. Strong's prestige as a man of letters, I ventured to join him with quotation, thus:

Did the road wind uphill all the way? Yes, to the very end. Did the journey take the whole long day? From morn to night, my friend.

So he and Mr. Golden, who also belongs to the intellingentsia, were ing to be greeted by big headlines on mouraged to tell me something about the complicated joys and sorrows the dramatic pages about the wondercontained in the history of "The Seventh Heaven." It was rather nice of fully vital performance of this Miss them to be so friendly, for my printed deprecation of the play had Broad, Not a word-nothing! Later I been cold and superior, though not an impediment. Mr. Golden's remarks if ever travel to Brooklyn to witness a reviewer after a hostile review are usually these: "You wrote what performances. pe thought about it, and I like you for that, at least." There are others.

Well, years ago, Mr. Strong while at a tea party in London, heard in an issue of "The Thester Magazine" Weld French legend. It was about the pretty chatelaine of a castle in I noticed her photo above the state-Presence, perhaps, who sent her sweetheart to the Crusades. In the course ment: "A Born Juliet," "On the Road of his absence she became disfigured by smallpox. Waiting for his return, to Stardom," etc. the suffered in contemplation of his horror when he would come back and But that was all. Bast week I met M her hideous instead of beautiful. But after the wars were over and an oldtimer in classics of the theater, wiever came home he was blind. And so they lived, comparatively happy, Shakespeare work, and in reply to my Mer after.

Thereupon Mr. Strong composed a poetic drama on that theme, a some one that Miss Broad had abanwhich now disappears from these annals. Long afterward, how, doned her "Shakespeare struggles"on, be wrote a one-act play during his summer at Nantucket around because managers, if at all interested the situation and took it to Mr. Golden. There was nothing doing by Mr. in doing the bard's masterpleces, the one-act play line. Mr. Strong then made it longer and wanted "names" only. In the one-act play line. Mr. Strong then made it longer and Now, Mr. Editor, I am not acquainted with it. Many comedies were engaging the attention of the imwith Miss Broad, nor do I know any one with Miss Broad, nor do I know any one who is yet I would like to tell the the anterports for weeks. Encountering Mr. Golden in his dashes from world loud enough for the managers to teler to theater, he would say "Look it over, John; it's better than my hear me that if any of them presents Three Wise Foold." Eventually Mr. Golden had an hour of leisure and Miss Bertha Broad as Juliet I'd guardirected it to a scrutiny of Mr. Strong's opus. "I'll do it," he said, adding, antee an attendance of at least fifty however, "with a few changes. I'll get Winchell Smith to stage it."

At the Columbia

At the TMr. Golden to put it on. "What's it all about?" asked Mr. Milton as terested I will send a check for the be witnessed with enthusiasm by Niko- while it is intellectually, in that way an organization new to burlesque. Appeared for "The Pink Slip," which the be passed by on the other side. "Don't worry, Austin," said Mr. Golden fifty seats in advance—and he can lai Lenine and Samuel Compers, by of speaking, a lot more important than pearing with Mr. Coleman will be shuberts are planning to bring to Mr. Strong. "Edgar Selwyn will be glad to help us do it." But Mr. charge speculators prices! alwyn, after studying the play, pronounced it "too foreign." Arthur kins described it as a "a mess," and Earl Carroll and Walter Jordan, corrietors of prosperous theaters, turned it down. Douglas Fairand Lionel Barrymore. Augustus Thomas and Walter than and Lionel Barrymore. Augustus Thomas and Walter than and Lionel Barrymore. Augustus Thomas and Walter than and I knew that I had to hit him between the eyes to distract him sophisticated critics and audiences, and I sent such players to play it applied to Mary," which the strong.

Stanley Howlett and Charles Frances are to be in "The Tidings Brought to Mary," which the from more imminent things." "Not at all," Mr. Golden rejoined; "it as Gilda Varesi, Katherine Cornell and Louis Bennison.

"Il stage it myself," declared Mr. Golden eventually. did. The title of the play then was "Heaven." "Too cold," Mr. Golden Three Candles'?" Mr. Strong inquired. "A little, but not enough," Mr. replied. "Let's christen it 'The Seventh Heaven,' " Mr. Golden

Date of whom has a fine respect and admiration for the other. "I overplay was good that I tried it in Detroit, where there are intelligent and

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"As much as possible, Mr. Golden," and half that much more turned away."

"George M. COHAN is going to give of the play," said Mr. Strong, "in order to catch John He is a husy play and eighty-four dollars, and half that much more turned away."



David Warfield, schom David Belasco will present as Shylock in "The Merchant of Venice," at the Lyceum Theater Thursday evening

His Own Humor

A Knight for Juliet

At this time when the press is packed with talk about this star's and that star's plans for playing Juliet, I wish to contribute my two

Hampden's production at the Academy of Music in Brooklyn. Well, sir, that girl actually "stopped" the show in the balcony scene and after the potion scene. The following day I purchased every metropolitan newspaper, expect-

Since that memorable evening I had lost complete track of Miss Broad until

query he said that he had heard from

persons, friends of mine. Here is a

New Theatrical Offerings

"JOHANNES KREISLER"-The Selwyns will present Ben-Ami in this fantastic melodrama from the German of Carl Meinhard and Rudolph Bernauer at the Apollo Theater on Wednesday night. Frank Reicher directed the production. In Berlin the play was presented under the title of "Die Wunderlichen Geschichten des Kapellmeisters Kreisler." Louis N. Parker has made the English adaptation for the presentation here and in London. E. N. von Resnicek's interpolative music has been embellished by original motifs for the ballet by Max Bendix, who will direct the orchestra. Svend Gade, the Danish inventor, who invented the six stages in one and whose mechanical limit of the average play, has superintended the technical and scenic effects personally and Fokine has directed the ballot. Ben-Ami's supporting company will include more than 100 players, and Lotus Robb will play the various women who embody the ideal of "Johannes

"THE GOD OF VENGEANCE"-Rudolph Schildkraut will make his debut on the English speaking stage on Wednesday night at the Provincetown Theater, when the Players Company will present him in Sholom Ash's play, which will be seen for the first time in English. Mr. Schildkraut created the leading part when Max Reinhardt produced the play in Berlin and has also played the part in Yiddish. The cast includes Eather Stockton, Virginia MacPadyen, Lou Sorin, Mae Berland, Dorothes Nolan, Lillian Taiz, Morris Karnowsky and James Meighan. The setting is one of the larger cities of Poland at the present time. Cleon Throckmorton designed the production.

"THE MERCHANT OF VENICE"-David Warfield will appear as Shylock in David Belasco's Shakespearean production at the Lyceum Theater on Thursday evening. In the supporting cast are Philip Merivale, Bassanio; A. E. Anson, Duke of Venice; Ian MacLaren, Antonio; W. I. Percival, Gratiano; Herbert Grimwood, Prince of Morocco; Albert Burning, Tubal; Horace Braham, Lorenzo; Reginald Goode, Salanio; Herbert Ranson, Salarino; Fuller Mellish, Old Gobbo; Charles Harbury, Balthasar; Percival Vivian, Launcelot Gobbo; Edward H. Wever, Stephano; Edward Crandall, Leonardo; Warde de Wolfe, Jester; Nick Long, Clerk of the Court; H. Brown, Ducal Messenger; Mary Servoss, Portia; Mary Ellis, Nerissa, and Julia Adler, Jessica. The settings are by Ernest Gros. Norman O'Neill composed the incidental music. The costumes were designed by Percy McQuoid and Elmer Taflinger supervised the period art.

"THE MASKED WOMAN"-A. H. Woods will offer Helen MacKellar in this play by Kate Jordan, based on the French of Charles Mere, at the Eltinge Theater on Friday night. Lowell Sherman has a featured rôle. Among others in the cast are Ian Keith, Ethel Jackson, Florence Flynn, Jane Houston, Gladys Frazin, Russell Fillmore and Albert Tavernier. The scene of the play is Paris.

would attract Herbert J. Hoover. On gland experiments.

CARL SANDBURG. others. Sir: After looking at the Theater the other hand, a Hendrik Van Loon

they give her the chance again?

To any manager who is further in
human drifts of the time, which might stormily as the latest movie storms, sisted by the American Girls Company, at the Winter Garden, has been en-CHARLES PHINEAS DAVIS. It takes up efficiency problems with so as many surprises as the latest comis takes up emciency problems with so as many surprises as the latest com-

Concerning Miss

plays that she had actually forgotten. Paddy, which Mrs. Fiske portrays, will of her early manuscripts was accept. the lyrics. CHARLES RUGGLES, Drama League. . . GEORGE W. ed by an Eastern producer on the con NOR. JACK SQUIRES, BETTY PIERCE his new musical production. It was dition that the writer make certain and FLORENCE MOORE are among originally called "The Strawberry Modjeska, don't begin by changing be a new title. It is unthinkable for title is to be changed to "A Pair of

was your boyish imagination and your wild exuberance popping all overthe place that caused most of the hard work." Mr. Golden summoned Charles Dillingham sent The Better 'Ole' to you, you sent it back. Garrick on Christmas Night. . . . one of his secretaries. "Send me," said he, "the dossier of "The Seventh When Al Woods offered you a half interest in "Partners Again" you he in the new musical modestics. "Send me," and I give not me, a Heaven." And I give you my word, a boy brought in a stack of type-Heaven." And I give you my word, a boy brought in a stack of type-couldn't see it." "Well, Austin," Mr. Golden replied, "I was a little is to reopen the Winter Garden. GAIL KANE is on her way to Europe. wrong in those cases, but what does it matter so long as I am right about GAIL KANE is on her way to Europe.

thereupon smiled as a cat who has eaten a canary, and so, indeed, did Mr. intelligent happiness to my fellow men than 'Lightnin', which it is doing, who was formerly general manager for thereupon smiled as a cat who has eaten a canary, and so, indeed, did Mr. intelligent happiness to my fellow men than 'Lightnin', which it is doing, who was formerly general manager for Golden. "Austin made Diane a gentle prostitute for instance," said Mr. if I may judge from this afternoon's box office statement." "How much towagenhals & KEMPER, is premoved to translate Trebitsch's play Golden, "and I changed her from that to an innocent, lovable and vicarious day," Mr. Golden asked casually of the treasurer of the Booth Theater." paring to produce "The Green Scarab." "Gitta's Atonement," in which Bertha

Diana Bourbon, in "Loyalties"

The Playbill

A Bulletin of Who's Who and What's What

By Beauvais Fox

THE Christmas cargo of plays would break in sunder any horn of plenty. God indeed rest merry the gentlemen undismayed who seek to view all the new offerings provided by the producers for the week beyond this. Nine major productions are scheduled within the Christmas octave, compared with five last year. And, besides, there will be a number of special presentations for children. Of the nine, eight are announced for Monday, Christmas Day. They are BILLIE BURKE in "Rose Briar," at the Empire; the THEATER GUILD production of the French miracle play, "The Tidings Brought to Mary," at the Garrick; MARGARET LAWRENCE in "Secrets," an English comedy drama, at

the Fulton; PATTI HARROLD in-"Glory," at the Vanderbilt; PEGGY his players a Christmas holiday. WOOD in "The Clinging Vine," at the Neither "Little Nellie Kelly" at the Knickerbocker; FAY BAINTER in "The Liberty nor "So This Is London ?" at the Lady Cristilinda," at the Broadhurst: Hudson will give the usual Christmas the EQUITY PLAYERS production of matinces. . . LADY GREGORY'S JESSE LYNCH WILLIAMS'S "Why "The Dragon," which will be presented Not?", at the Forty-eighth Street, and for special matinees at the Earl Car-LEO DITRICHSTEIN in "The Sublime roll Theater beginning Tuesday after-Egotist" at the Thirty-ninth Street
Theater. And on Wednesday, Decemher 27, ETHEL BARRYMORE will have
the play in 1917 and it was first preher premiere in "Romeo and Juliet," at duced at the Abbey Thoater, Dubl on April 21, 1919. .

As he indicates in the title of his POLLOCK will present "A Pinch Hitmystery play, "The Rear Car," ED- ter" at the Central Theater, Chleago, WARD E. ROSE has chosen the last on Christmas night. He has changed Sophie Treadwell car of the Continental Limited, speed-the name of the H. M. HARWOOD farce comedy to "Why, Certainly."

Sophie Treadwell ing eastward from Los Angeles, up a steep incline toward the Grand Canyon.

"Polly Preferred." GUY for the setting. TAYLOR HOLMES, as a deserting will be the plan, and the "Gringo," the play of Mexico, at the Comedy Theater, is no novice at play-writing, though this is her first EDWIN WALTER, JAY WILSON.

The Comedy Theater, is no novice at play-writing, though this is her first EDWIN WALTER, JAY WILSON.

The Comedy Theater, is no novice the content of the star, and the general the star of t play to reach production on Broadway. JAMES BRADBURY Jr., FRED KARR, Others in the cast are WILLIAM HAR. She has been writing plays for the last fourteen years. Altogether she WYNS will present the play at the Sel-WYNS will present the play at the Sel has written nineteen. Once, when she wyn Theater, Boston, on Christmas HAROLD'MALRIDGE. . . . AARON Congress looking over copyright rec. changed the title of MRS. PISKE'S new Congress looking over copyright rec-ords she found the titles of five of her The name of the leading character. Miss Trendwell was once an actress remain the same. . . GEORGE withdrawn. It is said that GEORGE n stock in California and became a M'CLELLAN is staging "Lonely Wives," in stock in California and became a which started out as a farce, but is now protege of Mms. Modjesks. It was married to music MARTIN BROWN while she was studying with Modjeska siapted the book, WILLI ORTMAN Earl Carroll Theater this afternoon, that she decided to write drama. One wrote the music and CYRUS D. WOOD under the direction of the New York

way you want it let it go unproalso putting on his title steeplechase
way you want it let it go unproand elimination contest . . . When
duced."

"Partners Again" is presented in Lonthe KEENE TWINS, FRED HEIDER,
JACK MACGOWAN, ADOLPH LINE,
JACK MACGOWAN, ADOLPH LINE,
STANLEY FORDE, GEORGE NEV-

While she was studying with Modjes. It has been suggested along Broadka the tragedienne started work on her memoirs. Miss Treadwell did the LARRYMORE appear concurrently in actual writing of that book. After "Bomeo and Juliet" it would be an plays at the Greenwich Village Theater, that she did newspaper work, first on economical scheme to have rotary "The San Francisco Bulletin." She casts, at least so far as the minor has filled important posts on New characters are concerned. Thus the York newspapers, including that of war curtain on Misa Barrymore's Juliet correspondent for "Harper's Weekly" might rise a time or time and a half and a string of Western papers in the nhead of that on Miss Cowi's. A short World War. She reported Ohregon's taxi ride from the Longacre to the Of the out-of-town comment on inrebellion in Mexico for The Tribune. Selwyn would enable characters who coming attractions for Christmas week are laid low in the early scenes to that of Robert Garland, writing in have their taking off in the houses of "The Bultimore American" of "The both Capulet Hopkins and Montague Clinging Vine," smites the attention, Dan Coleman will present a two-act Salwyn. . . . JANET ADAIR, who He says:

musical play in which the late Bert Williams was to appear on Broad-STANLEY HOWLETT and

. . H. H. FRAZEE has HOFFMAN'S comedy, "Give and Take, AUGUSTIN DUNCAN, who joined the company in rehearsal after leaving as SIDNEY may be engaged for the place.

B. IDEN PAYNE will speak on "Casting and Directing a Play" at the

your plays. Unless it is produced the also putting on his title steeplechase MAYHEW, MARGUERITE ZENDER, at the time, but later learned that the play here, will go abroad to put the STANLEY FORDE, GEORGE NEVplays are really writh, while they are in rehearsal.

English players through their prelimipany. . . To-night the Stuyvesant Players will give an additional performance of their program of one-act MALCOLM LA PRADE; "The End of the Book," by HENRY MYERS; "In a Stable," by JOSEPH SUNDERLAND,

George Bernard Shaw has been